



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

TAM NOTE 96-02

TRANSPORTATION ACQUISITION MANUAL NOTICE

DATE ISSUED: June 24, 1996.

Transportation Acquisition Manual (TAM NOTE) 96-02 SUMMARY OF ITEMS

TAM NOTE 96-02 is issued under the authority of the Transportation Acquisition Manual (TAM) and unless otherwise specified, all material contained in this TAM NOTE is effective on the date issued. The TAM is hereby amended as specified below:

Item I--Expansion of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Procurement Reinvention Laboratory

DOT's Procurement Reinvention Laboratory is expanded by offering more opportunities for LAB experiments.

Replacement pages: Department of Transportation Procurement Reinvention Laboratory Partnering Agreement (located after the TAM Foreword), 15 & 16.

TAM NOTE 96-02 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Remove Pages

Insert Pages

Department of Transportation
Procurement Reinvention Laboratory
Partnering Agreement, 15 & 16

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PHASE II - DOT PROCUREMENT REINVENTION LABORATORY (LAB)



This is Phase II of the LAB. While the opportunities and responsibilities of Phase I of the LAB are still in effect, this Phase expands the LAB by providing more opportunities and simplifies the LAB process. Any experiment under the LAB that was begun in Phase I shall be completed using the Phase I process.

I. OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED IN PHASE II.

- a. TAM WAIVERS GRANTED UNDER PHASE I. Any of the TAM waivers cited under attachment 1, pages 10-12 may be used for an INDIVIDUAL action OR for a CLASS of actions.
- b. PIGGYBACKING EXPERIMENTS. "piggybacking" an existing experiment means using the same or fewer waivers/deviations of the existing experiment to achieve the same objectives. If the assigned experiment number contains an "R", the experiment is restricted from the piggy-backing process. However, piggybacking can occur on any experiment not restricted.
- c. PIGGYBACKING EXPERIMENTS WITH ADDITIONAL WAIVERS/DEVIATIONS. Experiments can be conducted by PIGGYBACKING on a registered experiment AND EXPANDING it by: for example, including additional waivers or applying the experiment to a class of actions.
- d. TAR AND TAM WAIVERS. LAB experiments can contain waivers/deviations to TAR and TAM for an INDIVIDUAL action OR for a CLASS of actions.
- e. FAR WAIVERS. LAB experiments can contain waivers/deviations to FAR for an INDIVIDUAL action OR for a CLASS of actions. Because of the potential widespread impact of granting a FAR waiver, the originator must explain how the waiver, if implemented on a Governmentwide basis, could improve the acquisition system.

DOT

II. HOW TO USE THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

- a. ALL REGISTRATIONS. All 1 LAB experiments shall be coordinated with the originator's Headquarter's point of contact (see attachment 1, page 13) before submitting the registration to the Office of Acquisition and Grant Management (OAGM) for inclusion in the Clearinghouse. When piggybacking on an experiment, the new registration need only contain the number of the piggybacked experiment and any information unique to the new experiment (e.g., description of the procurement). OAGM is available to assist with the preparation of the registration.
- b. EXPERIMENTS CONSIDERING FAR WAIVERS/DEVIATIONS. LAB waivers to the FAR will be granted by the SPE. The purpose of granting FAR waivers is to experiment with ways to improve FAR processes and procedures for overall Governmentwide acquisition system improvement. Accordingly, the process for granting FAR waivers for LAB experiments must consider its potential widespread impact.

When considering an experiment containing a FAR waiver(s), contact OAGM and provide an explanation on how the waiver, if used on a Governmentwide basis, may improve the acquisition system. OAGM will advise the originator if the experiment can be submitted for registration with the FAR waiver/deviation included.

III. CONTRACTING OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. The responsibility for ensuring LAB experiments are *legally sound and meet law, executive order, and regulation* (unless authority to deviate has been granted) lies with the contracting officer. A waiver or deviation *does not operate to waive underlying law*. Submitting the experiment's registration signifies the fulfillment of this responsibility.
- b. To utilize any waiver granted, local procuring office requirements (e.g., instructions, notices, directives, bulletins) relating to the waived area shall also be waived.
- c. To discuss potential experiments or to obtain copies of registered experiments, contracting offices may call OAGM at (202) 366-6688. Copies of experiments can also be downloaded from the internet on: <http://www.dot.gov:80:whatsnew.html>